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The only way to know your HIV status is to get tested. “Take the test. Take control.”

June 27th is National HIV Testing Awareness Day

Eau Claire, WI- June 22nd, 2015- The CDC estimates that 1.1 million people in the U.S. are living with HIV and nearly one in six of those are not aware that they are infected. According to that estimate, this would mean there are about 1,125 people in Wisconsin living with HIV that are unaware of their infection (Wisconsin Department of Health Services). In 2014, Wisconsin saw 226 new HIV infections diagnosed. National HIV Testing Awareness Day encourages people to get tested and take control. The earlier you know, the more you can do.



The only way to know your HIV status is to get tested. Testing should be a routine part of health care not only for those at risk, but also all adults aged 15 to 65 years old. In Eau Claire County, nearly 75% of adults age 18+ reported that they have never been tested for HIV (Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2011-2012). Recent improvements in HIV testing can mean a simple finger poke and a 15 minute wait for test results. Early detection and treatment can lead to improved health, a prolonged life and a lower risk of spreading HIV to others.

Although it is important for everyone to be tested, it is crucial that those at a high risk maintain a regular testing routine. Those at a higher risk of becoming infected with HIV include:

- People that have unprotected anal or vaginal sex,
- Those who have multiple sex partners,
- People who share needles or injection drug equipment

HIV Testing is available at the Family Planning Clinic of the Health Department. Call 715-839-6988 with questions or to schedule an appointment. Testing is also available through your primary care provider or the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, call 715-836-7710 for more information.

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